



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Notes from Harry

Spice up your dining

Participate in Hunger Action Month tastefully on Sept. 21 at "Restaurant Night" in Collier County, hosted by 21 Spices by Chef Asif restaurant in Naples. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank to help feed our neighbors in need. 21 Spices restaurant is at 4270 Tamiami Trail E., No. 21, in Naples. Chef Asif is spearheading the event, and as of press time, three more restaurants have decided to join Restaurant Night: Lamoraga, Zen Asian BBQ and Zaza Kitchen (Marco Island). For more information, contact Dimitrios Settos of b-3 marketing dsettos@b3-marketing.com.

Participating restaurants:



21 Spices: 21spicesdining.com
Lamorga: lamorgarestaurant.com
Zen Asian BBQ: eatatzen.com
Zaza Kitchen: eatazaza.com



Nothing runs on empty

It's pretty simple. Cars don't move without gas. Lights can't shine without electricity. People have a hard time functioning when they're hungry.

September is National Hunger Action Month. Yes, the Harry Chapin Food Bank's mission is to lead our community in the fight to end hunger all year round. But in September, we're asking our supporters - and ourselves - to focus on just what that mission means and the actions, no matter how small, we can take to support it. This is the 12th year for Hunger Action Month, Feeding America's nationwide awareness campaign to mobilize action against hunger. Feeding America is the largest food bank network in the nation, with 200 members, including the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Orange is the color for Hunger Action Month. Orange is a cheery, in-your-face color. We're asking people to face something that is often hidden from view - the fact that so many of our neighbors are struggling to feed themselves and their families.

In September, we encourage you to wear orange often - especially on **Sept. 12**, which is National Hunger Action Day.

In the Southwest Florida area we serve, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties, about 151,600 people are food insecure, according to Map the Meal Gap 2019, an annual study done by Feeding America. Of that number, 46,470 are children.

Those are not just figures. They represent faces. Like Kelly,

who was at a recent mobile food pantry in Naples. She and her husband struggle to make ends meet. He recently had heart surgery. She had cancer. "We all have health issues right now that we're dealing with," she said. She hopes her husband will be accepted for disability. "We're waiting on some answers," she said.

We invite you to join the fight against hunger during Hunger Action Month, and we'll help show you how.

Our hunger action calendar will have a range of ways that you can help every day. Just check us out on Facebook or our website, harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Together we can end hunger, one helping at a time.



Kelly, mobile pantry client

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Richard LeBer
Harry Chapin Food Bank
President & CEO

Summer is the season for planning and preparation

Summer is a time of renewal at the food bank. While the pace of life may slow down in Southwest Florida for many, for us it's a time to look forward and set new plans. You'll find information in this newsletter about the Map the Meal Gap 2019 study. That's one of the tools we use to help us set priorities and plan.

Summer is also a time when many people need help even more than other times of the year. For many working families, hours at work are short, paychecks are thin, the kids are home from school and they're hungry. We work hard to feed them, even though our food sources are at their lowest volumes right now.

It's also hurricane season. We've made preparations and we're standing by – although we hope there's no need.

So, we're working hard on a number of fronts. We're feeding people, building our plans for the coming year and making preparations. If you're here with us this summer, thanks for your support. If you've gone north for a break from the heat, we look forward to your return in the fall.

Thanks so much to you all for the many ways you help us. We couldn't do it without you!

Food bank receives special delivery



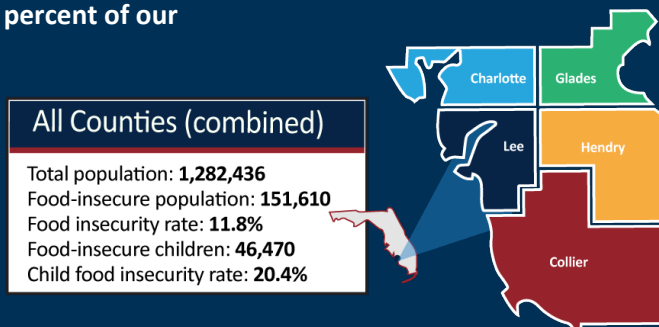
The 27th annual National Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive on May 11 brought in a total of **337,449 pounds for Lee County and Immokalee**. Immokalee is included because it is part of the National Association of Letter Carriers' union local. Of that total, the Harry Chapin Food Bank **received 226,452 pounds**. This is the largest one-day food drive in the country. It's also the largest one-day food drive for our food bank. The Harry Chapin Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties partnered with the letter carriers to make the food drive happen. Thanks to all.

Bridging the hunger gap

Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap study shows that Southwest Florida has a long way to go to bridge the gap between hunger and a healthy life. The study looks at food insecurity rates across the country, by state and locally, both in the general population and among children. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. The

accompanying graphic breaks down food insecurity in the Southwest Florida area we serve. The 2019 study shows that **11.8 percent of our overall population is food insecure and 20.4 percent of children are food insecure**. The national percentage is 12.5 percent for the overall

population and 17 percent for children. For an interactive map, go to <https://map.feedingamerica.org>.



Breaking the grip of summer hunger

Summer is at its height, usually a time of fun and friends for area schoolchildren on break. But for some, there is no break from hunger.

In the Southwest Florida area we serve, one in five children is food insecure, according to the Map the Meal Gap 2019 study by Feeding America. That means they may not know where their next meal is coming from.



Photo: Child at Harry's Helpings distribution

In addition, two-thirds of schoolchildren in Southwest Florida qualify for or receive free-or-reduced meals at school. During the summer, their parents also are often in need. Jobs and hours for adults decline in

our tourism-based economy, and produce is scarce because Florida's growing season has ended.



That's why summer poses a triple threat for the Harry Chapin Food Bank: no school, fewer jobs, little produce. School starts Aug. 14, but tourism is still at a low ebb through the end of September, when snowbirds slowly start to return.

We need your support for our food programs to help kids and families through these lean times, including mobile pantries, which see a heightened need during summer and Harry's Helpings, which provides food kits for hungry families at sites where neither partner agencies nor mobile pantries are available or feasible.



Photo: Child at a Fulfill Mobile Pantry

For more information, contact Monica Correa, programs outreach manager, at (239) 334-7007 ext. 112 or mcorrea@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Morgan Stanley helps fund children's programs

The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida has **received a \$50,000 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation** to fund its children's food programs, which provide readily accessible sources of healthy and nutritious food for children and their families in convenient and familiar locations, such as a school. The food bank is one of 35 food banks that received funding from Morgan Stanley as part



of a \$1.25 Million gift to Feeding America member food banks to help develop, launch, expand and sustain critical child nutrition programs. "Morgan Stanley is a terrific partner for our organization, and we are grateful for the support its employees

have shown by donating their time and through generous contributions," said Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO.

Vincent Colucci, Morgan Stanley Complex Manager in Naples, added, "With an engaged employee base and a culture of giving back, our employees volunteer regularly at Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida and we are delighted to extend our support through this grant to provide even more children with the foods they need to develop, learn and thrive."

Kicking food waste to the curb

Americans throw away many tons of food every year. In fact, **food waste is estimated at between 30 to 40 percent of the food supply, or about 133 billion pounds**, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Meanwhile, more than **40 million people struggle with hunger, including more than 12 million children.**

At the food bank, we are committed to eliminating food waste. We have a Retail Rescue Program that collects shelf-stable and perishable food from more than 140 retailers in Southwest Florida.



Donations include produce, frozen meat, baked goods and deli items.

We also have a Fresh Produce Rescue Program that provides growers and other sources with an avenue to help make

sure the fruits and vegetables they produce are not wasted. "Roughly 30 percent of the food we distribute annually consists of fresh fruits and vegetables," said Chris Robinson, our procurement manager. "Often, fresh produce items we receive are slightly misshapen, have small blemishes, or are too large/small for the marketplace.

Although these items are perfectly edible, wholly nutritious, and very much in demand, growers are often forced to discard/destroy a fair percentage of their products as consumers tend to place a high value on aesthetic appeal."

In other words, an "ugly" potato tastes just as good and is just as nutritious as a "perfect" potato.

Any food we receive that is spoiled, opened, or past the date when it should be consumed by people is given to a local pig farmer.

In Lee County, according to a 2016 waste audit, about 70,000 tons of the waste stream is food. The county has held a Donated Not Wasted food rescue drive for the last two years. For the 2019 drive, 2,363 pounds of food were collected.



Photo: Imperfect, but perfectly nutritious potato



Photo: Volunteers sort baked goods from a retailer.

The drive is held by the county's solid waste department, parks and recreation department, county library system, Waste Pro, Harry Chapin Food Bank and Fox 4.

For more information about becoming a retail food or fresh produce donor, please contact Chris Robinson, procurement manager, at (239) 334-7007 ext. 137 or crobinson@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Peanut butter & jelly wars are a win for the food bank

Southwest Florida's WAY-FM has swamped us, in a good way, with PB&J. The radio station's annual peanut butter and jelly drive brought in a total of 10,380 pounds! That's more than five tons of PB&J, folks. It will all be put to good use. The previous record, from last year, was 5,800 pounds. We appreciate the WAY-FM staff's hard work and their partnership in the fight to

end hunger in our community. During the food drive, businesses and other groups competed to see which one would collect the most PB&J. The winner was PierSide Grill and Famous Blowfish Bar on Fort Myers Beach, with a total of 1,013 pounds. That's a lot of sandwiches!



Photo L-R: Jonathan Kelly, volunteer; Michelle Kelly, WAY-FM administrative assistant; Tim Norton, WAY-FM operations director; Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO; and Aaron Seiders, WAY-FM volunteer

Harry's photo album



A recent Fulfill Mobile Pantry at Franklin Park Elementary School in Fort Myers



A group of 91 people from Southwest Florida Church of Christ volunteered at our Fort Myers Distribution Center on May 26.



Synovus Bank volunteered recently at our Collier County Center in Naples. They packed 3,840 pounds of food for our Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign.



Leadership Collier Class of 2019 members volunteered June 1 at a Fulfill Mobile Pantry. L-R: Dan Hartley; Lisa Kozlowski; George Riekerk; Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO, and Doug Meschko



It was #NosesOn for food bank staff in support of Red Nose Day on May 23.



Vel Graham volunteered at a recent Fulfill Mobile Pantry.



Brantley Garcia, 6, held his second annual food drive in June, collecting 417 pounds of peanut butter and jelly and dry goods with help from Canterbury School.



Sarah Cabrera's 18 for 18 food drive resulted in 2,794 pounds of food and \$5,419 in donations.



Matching grant provides \$300,000 to feed seniors in need



The Harry Chapin Food Bank's program to provide food for hungry seniors has received a \$300,000 boost through the generosity of the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

The foundation's \$300,000 matching grant is designated for the Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign.

The program supplements the diets of 2,200 low-income seniors age 60 and older in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties each month with bags of canned fruits and vegetables, grains,

protein and other nonperishable food. When possible, the food bank will also provide bread, produce and frozen meat to clients.

Seniors enrolled in Care & Share face the difficult choice of paying for rent, utilities and medication, or buying food. A gift of \$500 can help feed a senior for a year.

"We are thrilled to be able to continue providing help to our seniors in need, and grateful to the Schulze Foundation for their generosity and leadership in supporting this essential program," said Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO.

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation was created in 2004 by

Best Buy founder, Dick Schulze, to give back to the communities where Dick and his family grew up — in Minnesota, where he built Best Buy to become the world's largest consumer electronics retailer and in Florida, where he now maintains a permanent residence. The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation creates grant partnerships with organizations that generate transformational results in human and social services, education, and health and medicine.



Honoring outgoing board members

We honored outgoing board members Maura Matzko and David Fry for serving on the Harry Chapin Food Bank Board of Directors since 2013. "We are so grateful for David's and Maura's selfless contributions to the Food Bank," said Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO. "Their many years of leadership, wisdom and support have helped us grow. Their work has

made Southwest Florida a better place." LeBer also thanked Jeff Maddox of Maddox Construction, who served on the Board of Directors in recent years.

Richard LeBer awards Harry Chapin gold records to David Fry, left, and Maura Matzko, right.



Take action

Volunteers make it possible for the Harry Chapin Food Bank to help feed **28,000 people a week** in Southwest Florida.

We have many volunteer opportunities for those who want to support us in our mission to lead our community in the fight to end hunger.



Volunteer as an individual or group

Schedule a shift with your company, school or friends!



Volunteer at a Fulfill Mobile Pantry

Help feed the community directly through our mobile pantry program, called Fulfill.



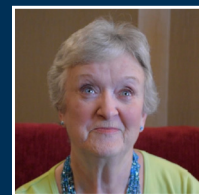
Volunteer at our facility in Fort Myers or Naples

Help pack, sort, load and unload food.
Help with special events and other activities.

If you'd like to know more about joining our army of volunteers, visit harrychapinfoodbank.org/take-action/give-time/volunteer.

Why I volunteer ...

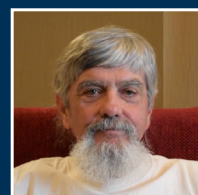
Sharon Murphy



"I volunteer at the Harry Chapin Food Bank because I want to make a

difference in our community, and in the lives of the people who really need help down here."

Bob Cochran



"I've lived in this community for 45 years. I think the Harry

Chapin Food Bank is a very good organization. I volunteer because I really enjoy it."

Matching grant campaign kickoff

The Alan and Jacquelin Cadkin Foundation is offering a \$25,000 matching grant to the food bank for Fulfill Mobile Pantries to fight child hunger. "To feed a hungry child is to feed the soul of your community," the Cadkins commented. "Our children are the future of our country. We cannot sacrifice even one child to hunger."

For more information, contact Greg Clancy at 239-334-7007, ext. 200 or gclancy@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Helping Hands for Hearts

We served about 90 families at a special mobile pantry held June 1 in partnership with Hands for Hearts, a free CPR awareness event organized by the Leadership Collier Class of 2019.

Hands for Hearts provided community awareness and instruction about Hands-Only CPR (CPR without rescue breaths) at two sites, Sugden Community Theatre and the Golden Gate Community Center, both in Naples.

Our Fulfill Mobile Pantry, assisted by volunteers from Leadership Collier, provided an additional component at the community center. "Saving lives takes many forms – be it nutrition or CPR," said Ashley Mirakian, event organizer and Leadership Collier Class of 2019 member. "The food bank's mission is inspiring to us."



See photo in Harry's photo album on page 5.



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

**The Harry Chapin Food Bank of
Southwest Florida**
3760 Fowler Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

We've launched our
new website! Visit
harrychapinfoodbank.
org to see our new and
improved design.

Leave a legacy

Your support of the Harry Chapin Food Bank demonstrates your commitment to ending hunger in Southwest Florida. Please consider the Harry Chapin Food Bank when planning your will or estate. For more information, call: (239) 334-7007 or email giving@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Fort Myers Distribution Center
3760 Fowler St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Collier County Center
3940 Prospect Ave. #101
Naples, FL 34104

Find us on social media



Harry's happenings

- 7 to 9 p.m. August 17 - Florida Music Food Initiative Benefit Concert/Food Drive
Visit floridamusicfoodinitiative.org for more information.
- September - **Hunger Action Month**
- Sept. 21 - **Restaurant Night in Collier County**, featuring 21 Spices by Chef Asif, Lamorga Restaurant, Zen Asian BBQ and Zaza Kitchen.

How donations are used

\$1 equals \$8 worth of food value



- 4 percent of donations go to administration and funding
- 96 percent of donations go to programs and services



A copy of the Food Bank's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs at 1-800-435-7352 or visit freshfromflorida.com.